

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 27, 2005

DX PRESENTS EXTREME DESIGN FOR EXTREME CLIMES!

Toronto, Ontario: Next week, the Design Exchange (DX) will open an exhibit that is well timed for the impending winter season. **Design for the Cold** opens next **Wednesday November 2nd** on the DX ground floor. The goals of this exhibition are to raise awareness about how Canadians experience the winter, to identify the physical exigencies and to exhibit universal design solutions applicable to winter environments. The DX is located at 234 Bay, Toronto; admission to this exhibition is free.

During the cold months of the year, something as seemingly routine as going outdoors can become a difficult and even dangerous task for Canadians. This is especially true for those with disabilities or chronic illnesses and/or the vulnerabilities associated with childhood and old age. Simply attempting to breathe and move can require conscious effort and determination. Consequently, many people remain indoors for a large portion of the year, especially when health concerns are compounded with physical barriers.

DESIGN FOR THE COLD features the work of sixteen designers, educators and health sciences researchers who conceived of solutions for coping with extreme temperatures. Accompanying their work is a central installation produced by six Canadian artists that interpret the act of breathing in the cold.

The DX will also shortly publish a special issue of EXCHANGE on Universal Design which will include a feature on the "COLD" exhibit. Content in the publication draws from the Universal Design Professional Development Series, (www.dx.org/universal) which was a sequence of interdisciplinary workshops that introduced designers and other professionals to the concept of Universal Design.

This exhibit opening will be followed by a series of related programs on **November 8**. In the morning there will be a workshop on biomimicry led by **Dayna Ayers Baumeister**. Participants will learn how to use 'conscious emulations of nature's genius' to develop design solutions applicable to winter environments. In the afternoon of November 8, the DX will hold an invitational design charette called "**Orphan Spaces**". The DX is partnering with the City of Toronto on this charette, a pilot project, as part of the **Clean and Beautiful City** initiative. Orphan spaces are areas in the city that become lost in the shuffle of creating homes, businesses, parks, utility and transportation corridors. The charette will explore new possibilities for these space such as signage, painting, and plantings, and it coincides with **World Town Planning Day**.

EVENT INFORMATION:

Exhibit Opening

DATE: Wednesday, November 2nd

TIME: 5:00 –7:00 pm

Exhibit on display until November 25

Poster Review :

DATE: Wednesday, November 2nd

TIME: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Biomimicry Workshop

DATE Tues November 8th

TIME : 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

Registration required -- contact 416.216.2126

Design Charette: *Orphan Spaces*

DATE Tues November 8th

TIME: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Design for the Cold is presented by Design Exchange (DX), in partnership with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario at the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Health, Care, Technology and Place CIHR Strategic Research & Training Program (HCTP), University of Toronto, and The Change Foundation, and sponsored by Mountain Equipment Coop. Exhibition support is provided by the Seneca College Work Placement program.

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